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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FGERLACH:SLB
APPROVED BY P:MR. HABI0
NEA:SSOBER
PM/ISO:GCHURCHILL
H:RFLATEN
DOD/ISA:LJANKA
S/S:O -LRMACFARLANE
AID/NE/DP:BLANGMAID
N :ALATHERTON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA, AID/NE, DOD/ISA, PM, H
----------201724Z 017871 /43
O P 201631Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PFOR, ON, US

SUBJECT: U.S. USE OF MASIRAH ISLAND

REF: (A) MUSCAT 263 (NOTAL); (B) CINCPACFLT 192291Z FEB 77
(NOTAL)

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1. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE OMANI GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO FONMIN ZAWAWI'S REQUEST TO KNOW USG INTENTIONS RE CONTINUED USE OF MASIRAH FACILITIES:

A. USG APPRECIATES OMANGOV'S COOPERATION DURING PAST NINE MONTHS IN MAKING MASIRAH AIRFIELD AVAILABLE FOR OCCASIONAL VISITS BY U.S. NAVY MARITIME PATROL PLANES FOR REFUELING. SUCH VISITS HAVE MADE POSSIBLE A MORE THOROUGH SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET FLEET ACTIVITY IN INDIAN OCEAN AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTED TO SHARED SECURITY OBJECTIVES.

B. USG WOULD LIKE FUNDAMENTALLY TO CONTINUE CURRENT PRACTICE OF OCCASIONAL VISITS TO MASIRAH. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORIZATION FOR MAXIMUM OF 12 VISITS PER QUARTER (AS AGAINST CURRENT MAXIMUM OF SIX) AND FOR INTRODUCTION OF OCCASIONAL LOGISTIC SUPPORT AIRCRAFT VISITS WITHIN AUTHORIZED NUMERICAL LIMIT. BY " L0GISTIC SUPPORT AIRCRAFT" WE MEAN NON-COMBATANT AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD CARRY CARGO SUCH AS MAIL FOR U.S. NAVY VESSELS OPERATING FROM TIME TO TIME IN GENERAL VICINITY OF OMAN.

C. WE FORESEE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN TYPE OF SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR SUCH VISITS AFTER GOVERNMENT OF OMAN TAKES OVER MASIRAH FACILITIES FROM RAF NEXT MONTH. NAVY'S SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS WERE PASSED TO YOU IN REF B. U.S. NAVY IS PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO SEND TEAM TO MUSCAT TO WORK OUT ANY FURTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS, IF THIS WOULD APPEAR NECESSARY.

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2. SHOULD FONMIN RAISE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION TO OMAN FOR U.S. LANDING PRIVILEGES ON MASIRAH, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT.WHILE APPRECIATING OMAN'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN STRENGTHENING REGIONAL SECURITY, WE ASSUME THERE WILL BE SOME SORT OF LANDING FEE FOR SERVICES GOVERNMENT OF OMAN WILL BE PROVIDING VISITING U.S. AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF OMAN'S VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THIS FEE.

3. WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT ZAWAWI HAS INDICATED GOVERNMENT OF OMAN WILL EXPECT SOME SORT OF COMPENSATION FOR U.S. USE OF MASIRAH AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT THIS BE IN THE FORM OF U.S. FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ADVISORS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT SULTAN AND SOME OTHER ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN APPEAR TO DESIRE A CLOSER SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. SHOULD ZAWAWI INDICATE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN WILL EXPECT SOMETHING IN ADDITION TO LANDING

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FEES, YOU SHOULD REPLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. WE ARE AWARE OF OMAN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN EXPANDING U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ROLE IN OMAN AND FULLY SHARE THIS DESIRE;

B. WE HOPE THAT USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS AS IS THE CASE IN OTHER CRUDE OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN THE PENINSULA;

C. (IF SUBJECT IS RAISED BY ZAWAWI) - IN LIGHT OF OMAN'S PER CAPITA INCOME, WE PERCEIVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE USE OF USG FUNDS TO PAY FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN OMAN;

D. YOU WOULD BE HAPPY TO REPORT OMAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. FYI: IN ANY EVENT WE WANT TO STEER

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OMANI THINKING AWAY FROM EXPANDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP AND TOWARD APPROPRIATE LANDING FEES PAYABLE BY DOD FOR SERVICES REQUESTED AND PROVIDED DURING USG AIRCRAFT VISITS TO MASIRAH AIRFIELD AS PROPOSED HEREIN. END FYI.

4. FYI ONLY: USG STILL HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION POSSIBLE OTHER USES FOR MASIRAH ISLAND. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO POSTPONE DECISION ON WHETHER TO SEEK SUCH USE FROM OMANIS UNTIL REVIEW OF BROADER POLICY ISSUES CONCERNING AREA IS COMPLETED. AT THIS POINT WE PREFER THAT OMANGOV NOT BE INFORMED OF POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT LATER BE SEEKING USE OF MASIRAH BEYOND VISITS OF P-3S AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT AIRCRAFT AT RATE OF 12 PER QUARTER. END FYI.

5. PLEASE REPORT FULLY ON OMANGOV REACTION TO YOUR APPROACH.

6. FOR LONDON, JIDDA, AND TEHRAN: YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS, AT LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, ABOUT APPROACH WE ARE MAKING TO OMANIS. STRESS THAT OUR PROPOSED AIRCRAFT VISITS TO MASIRAH WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY U.S. PRESENCE OR CONTROL OF FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 20-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 MUSCAT 263
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